

Trip Report

BUMs mid- weeker

Wednesday 28th July 2021

Walkers: Mike Arrowsmith (leader) Lesley , Selina and Mike, Steve and Sarah, Tina, Jacqui and Dave French, Jim, Colin, Dave Cadman

Venue: Eyam and Eyam Moor

Stats: 8.25 miles, 1909 ft of ascent, Max height, 1414ft at trig point.

Weather- warmish, greyish with thunder and lightning threatening pm

Inspiration: Walks in the ancient Peak District by Robert Harris, or Bomber as fondly known, resident of Bunbury and member of BUMs

After a few alterations to the squad, due to threatening heavy rain and something about an urgent dental appointment, 12 BUMs were down for this walk, 10 leaving Bunbury and two collected en route.

We started from the free car park at Eyam and headed up the hill to meet a road running along Eyam Edge then on to a bridle path heading to Nether Bretton. We then dropped down into a lovely clough towards Bretton Brook. We had a coffee stop on a foot bridge at Stoke Ford and then headed east to follow the edge of woods. There were some interesting moving mounds here-ant hills. The ants were having a splendid time moving debris about. Only they could know why but we didn't poke them, just in case.

We quickly came to a road at Hazelford, where we turned onto a footpath to access Eyam Moor. At this point we could have made a sharp right turn across the moor to find the standing stones as described in Bob's book. However I think Bob must have written his description during winter. Today the bracken had removed all traces of paths and was so high that several members of the group who are vertically challenged, may never have been seen again. So we decided for health and safety's sake to follow the clear path ahead . At this point there was also a weather check needed as the skies darkened and we could smell rain approaching. Mike made an executive decision to take lunch before we got a drenching and this stop also allowed us to don waterproofs, which we did need but not for long. The thunder could soon be heard, so good decision of Debbi and Jeff's not to risk Spot out in it. Despite being a bit of a macho dog, he doesn't like thunder.

By the time we reached Sir William Hill Road, the dramatic skies were streaked with lightening but that didn't deter us from making the trig point, height 429 metres.

Then it was a simple matter of retracing our steps back to Eyam.

A good day was had by all and not yet done Tina, Jacqui, Dave F and Dave C stopped behind to have a look round Eyam whilst Selina and Mike who were camping nearby, stopped to have a look round the pubs.

The rest of us high tailed it back to Bunbury in probably the heaviest rain I have ever seen. Thank goodness we were warm and dry in the car.

The Dysart was a welcome sight and in the end we had to escape in doors as the rain caught up with us.

There's a lot more to be explored around this area of Derbyshire and I can heartily recommend Bob's book for those interested in ancient things—not Bob himself of course.

Lesley